



Odyssey Preparatory Academy

1350 Wyoming Drive S.E. • Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

NOV / DEC 2017 NEWSLETTER

"Committed to academic excellence and the education of the whole child"

OUR MISSION FOR EVERY CHILD

The mission of Odyssey Charter School is to work in partnership with the family and community, with the aim of helping each child reach their full potential in all areas of life. We seek to educate the whole child with the understanding that each person must achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.

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SCHOOL-BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms. Constance Ortiz

Founder

Monica Knight, PhD

Principal/Site Administrator

Paul Galloway

Assistant Principal

Alicia Cohen

Dean of Students

Paulette Brancaccio

Caitlin Cummings

Instructional Coaches

Rebecca Estes

Counselor

Note from Dr. Knight

Dear Odyssey Preparatory Academy Olympians and Families,

Welcome to another amazing year for the Odyssey family. It is an honor to work with all of the amazing children and families of Odyssey Preparatory Academy. There are lots of wonderful additions to our school this year. We have added an amazing Glee program, numerous clubs like sewing and Lego club, gardening during recess time, a new GATEway (gifted and talented) class, and a 90 minute a week hands-on science lab for all students in grades 3-6. In addition, all students were assessed using a new online diagnostic tool called iReady all classes have started guided reading groups in their classes and every grade-level has 30 or more minutes of acceleration/intervention time daily to ensure that every Olympian gets the academic support needed to reach his/her full potential.

We are very proud of the academic success of our school last year and we expect to continue to perform at high levels this year. To do this, we need your help! To ensure the academic success of your students, we need you to help your child(ren):

- 1) Read nightly for 20-30 minutes (consider using MyON or checking books out of the public library),
- 2) Complete required homework (should be done 2-3 days a week at minimum for grades 3-6),
- 3) Attend required tutoring in grades 3-6 (when sessions start in January), and
- 4) Complete 45 minutes of iReady for Math and 45 minutes of iReady for English/Language Arts each week.

Helping your child at home with these areas will ensure that your child reaches his/her academic potential.

Please also remember to check your child's edline grades and ask for a parent conference or communication if you have any questions. Other tips on MyON and iReady are included in this newsletter. Together, we can ensure that all Odyssey students reach their full potential and Odyssey schools continue to outperform surrounding elementary, middle, and high schools.

If you have any questions, need assistance contacting a teacher, or have an idea on how to engage families more in our school, please call me directly at 321-446-6659.

Monica Knight, Ph.D.
Principal/Site Administrator

FALL 2017 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER:

- 11/9 4th Grade Wax Museum (evening event)
- 11/10 Veterans Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL
- 11/15 Early Release Day
- 11/15 Board Meeting @ 5:15pm (Elementary)
- 11/22 Holiday- NO SCHOOL
- 11/23 Holiday- NO SCHOOL
- 11/24 Holiday- NO SCHOOL
- 11/28 Parents As Partners (PasP) Parent Organization meeting @ 6:30 pm (Eldron cafe)
- 11/29 Early Release Day

DECEMBER:

- 12/6 Early Release Day
- 12/13 Early Release Day
- 12/14 Winter Music Program
- 12/19 Early Release - Exam Day
- 12/20 Early Release - Exam Day
- 12/21 Early Release - Exam Day
- 12/22 -1/5 Holiday NO SCHOOL

JANUARY:

- 1/8 Students return

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students are off to a great start. The students have spent the first nine weeks learning what it means to be a good citizen! They have learned about why we have rules and laws and how to be a part of a school community. In ELA, they have been studying the difference between fiction and non-fiction. They have also studied story elements including characters, setting, plot, and main idea. In Math, students have learned different ways to represent a number and all about two dimensional shapes.

First Grade

Ms. Stevens is currently working on her Montessori certification this year, so she will be implementing the Montessori curriculum as she learns it through her trainings. Montessori students in both Ms. Steven's and Ms. Ebersole's classrooms are learning Peace Education, Grace, and Courtesy as well as Geography and Botany. We are practicing Grace and Courtesy by saying "Please," and "Thank you," by taking care of our materials and cleaning up, and by being helpful and considerate of others. Ms. Ebersole's class participated in World Peace Day by joining Montessori VPK in singing and signing "Light a Candle for Peace" around our Peace Pole. We have all been learning how to be calm and peaceful (deep breathing!), how to move quietly and thoughtfully throughout our day, and to respect each other. We have also been studying, observing and growing plants in Botany.

Second Grade

As we start the second nine weeks we are excited to say that second graders are adapting very well in the classroom, as well as the school expectations. Students began October with Greek Mythologies, where students are learning how to recall stories and determine the central message. The students are getting excited about reading as we continue to build their reading and phonics skills. Second grade is also going to begin walk to intervention this month, to provide students with additional support in the skills needed to help them grow. You will also notice your children taking place value to the next level as we work with two-digit and three- digit numbers by adding and subtracting.



Third Grade

Third grade students have been working on our multiplication facts and about to start division. We look forward to watching the students learn and grow! In ELA, students are learning how to retell stories and determine the central message. You can help at home by asking your child to retell what they have read before signing their reading logs. Be sure they include the characters, setting, problem, and solution. Remember, we will be having a Spelling Bee in December, so be sure your child is studying their words!

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students have been working hard on their Wax Museum Projects. Each student chose a famous Floridian to research and to "become" on our special Wax Museum Night. All fourth grade students will present their Wax Museum characters and costumes on Tuesday, October 31st from 9:15 - 10:15 am. Please also join us for their Wax Museum Event on Thursday, November 9th from 6:00 - 7:00 pm here at Odyssey Preparatory Academy. This event will be used as a fundraiser for our St. Augustine field trip, so please bring your spare change and vote for your favorite piece of living history!



Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students are currently reading the story "Adventures of Don Quixote" in English/Language Arts. This is a piece of literature about a man in his fifties who becomes so absorbed in his books about knights and chivalry that he begins to believe that he himself is a knight. The story takes us on a journey into the comical and sad state of Don Quixote and his misadventures meddling into the affairs of others in an attempt to "right all that is wrong with the world". Students have just started this book and it is a part of the new CKLA curriculum that is being introduced into the classroom. CKLA stands for Core Knowledge Language Arts. It is an exciting new development in our ELA classroom as we move to more challenging reading and more critical thinking skills for reading.

5th grade students are exploring the concept of force. They are testing the variables of mass and release position to determine if they have an affect on the distance a steel ball will travel in 2 seconds.



Sixth Grade

Sixth grade students are getting ready to move into Odyssey Jr/Sr High. This means that rigorous work is being done in all content areas. Homework should be completed daily. In ELA, the homework assessment books are sent home on Mondays and it is due on Thursday. Sixth graders are still doing inference, citing evidence and analyzing how conflicts in a story advance the plot's rising action and climax in Language Arts. Each student is given a book to take home each month, please ensure they are reading for at least 20 minutes nightly by recording it in their planners. In Social Studies, we are focusing on Athens and Rome citizenship. In Science, students should be beginning to work on science fair projects. A packet with more information discussing specifics will be coming home soon. In math, students will be bringing home individualized homework as well as classwork that was not completed during class time. As a parent, please decide if your child has mastered the content and determine if the classwork needs to be completed or not. Other individualized homework will be given on Tuesdays and due on Fridays as to give students enough time to complete.



Odyssey Prep. Athletics

Olympians sports programs are up and running for the 2017-2018 school year! OPA provides the following co-ed sports: volleyball, flag football, and basketball for fifth and sixth grade and soccer for Kindergarten-sixth grade. This is an opportunity for students to learn teamwork, build relationships, and get outside and be active in their favorite sports! The fee for all of our sports

is \$60. This fee goes towards the league payment, jerseys, and the coach. We are about to begin our flag football season which runs through December. Keep an eye out for basketball and soccer information near the end of October. We are looking for committed parents or community members to coach our soccer teams! If you interested please contact Ms. Cummings or Mrs. Cohen for more information. We want to fill the stands with fans! So come out and support these fantastic kiddos and show your OPA PRIDE!

Inside the Art Room



Students in third through sixth grades in the art room are learning about the Art Elements, Abstract art, and Pop Art! Focus is on lines, shapes, and color with developing quality craftsmanship. We have also just started a new art competition to complete calendar pages for the annual NASA calendar.

Kindergarten through second grade is working on patterns and how to use the art supplies correctly. Third through sixth grade are learning how to critique art using the art elements.

Glee Club



Things are picking up in OPA music this fall, as we started the Glee Club in October and our third through sixth grade elementary classes forming in-class bands to work through projects and begin experiencing group performance. The bands will be exploring various instruments and ensemble arrangements over the course of the year as they head toward a final performance project at the end of the year.

Working in ensembles is a great way for students to experience music together. For interested singers, the Glee Club program, which began in October, is an opportunity for students to enhance their vocal skills, learn some new songs, and showcase their performance talents throughout the year. If your child is interested, make sure they contact music teacher Mr. Stout to schedule an audition!

iReady

Students at Odyssey Prep Academy have been busy as they have finally completed the iReady diagnostic Exam. This exam helps teachers determine current reading and math levels for students. Students are tested at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. Teachers use this data to work more closely with students to help them improve their skills. Students will also use iReady in the classroom weekly to gain knowledge that will aide them on the Florida State Assessments that take place the second half of the school year. iReady can also be accessed from home at <https://login.i-ready.com/> and your child should complete 45 minutes a week for math and English/Language Arts. If you need your child's login information please email Mr. Galloway at gallowayp@odyssey-prepacademy.com.

Car Loop and Bus Safety

A reminder pick-up for students after school is in our car loop and not the parking area. Please make sure if you need to come into our building during car loop or any other time to use our crosswalk as it is the sanctioned way to cross our car loop. Please make sure you are on-time as this helps our staff serve you better.

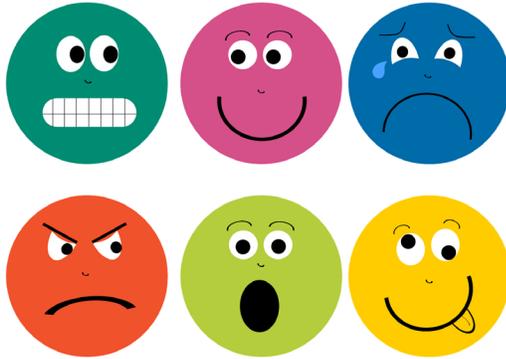
A reminder to be on-time to bus stops and for students to stay in their assigned seats with seatbelts fastened while the bus is moving. This helps our drivers get your child safely to school and back each and every day.

Counselor Corner

By Mrs Estes, Social Worker & Mrs Cohen, Dean

Helping Children Cope with “Big Feelings”

Children can have the same big feelings that we do. The difference for adults, though, is that we have more life experience to know how to deal with difficult emotions. When our children feel fear, anxiety, or anger, they need our help to learn how to cope. Here are some tips:



Name the feeling(s)

Help your child figure out which feeling they are having/were having. Putting a name to it can help validate their experience. Having a feelings poster or reading children’s books about feelings can be helpful to identify their own feeling.

Normalize the feeling(s)

It can be confusing for a child who’s feelings take over and lead to behaviors they may not usually have. Explain that all people have these feelings sometimes, and we all have to learn how to manage them.

Talk about the brain

Our brains and our bodies are connected, and our brains send out signals when we experience certain “big feelings.” Explain that we have a part of our brain (thinking brain) that’s in charge of making decisions, thinking things through, and managing our emotions. Explain that another part of our brain (emotional brain) is in charge of important things like breathing, digesting food, and holds onto big feelings like anger or anxiety; this part of our brain also reacts to any threats, and can make us feel like we need to run (flight), fight back, or freeze. Sometimes this part of our brain overreacts, and we need to try strategies to calm it down. (For a full script of the brain conversation, visit <https://imperfectfamilies.com/what-anxious-and-angry-kids-need-to-know-about-their-brain/>)

Practice self-regulation skills

When children are calm, their thinking brain is on, and this is the best time to come up with a plan for when their emotional brain tries to take over. Encourage taking a break (not a timeout), deep breathing, releasing angry energy by exercising, and relaxation strategies such as progressive muscle relaxation, coloring, calm down jars, music, etc. Practice these repeatedly when they are calm. Helping your child begin to recognize their body’s early signs of a big feeling (heart racing, clenched jaw, etc.) can help them learn when to employ their self-regulation skills.

Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
- Step 3: **Contact Board Designated Parent Representative
- Step 4: Contact the President of the Governing Board
- Step 5: Present issue at the next monthly Board Meeting if unresolved
- Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor

**Mrs. Wendi Nolder has been designated by the OCS Board of Directors as the Representative to Facilitate Parental Involvement, provide access to information, assist parents and others with questions and concerns, and resolve disputes according to charter requirements. Mrs. Nolder can be reached at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com or 321-733-0442.

Title I News

FSA Scores

If you have not received your student’s FSA score report for last school year, please come into the front office to get your copy. If you would like to discuss the results, please call the office to schedule an appointment with your child’s teacher.

SPAR

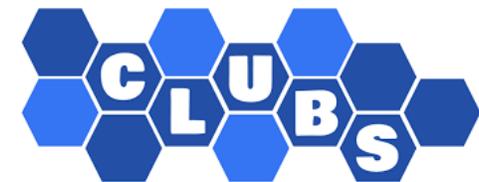
We want to make all parents and guardians aware that the most current (2015-2016) SPAR, School Public Accountability Report, for Odyssey Preparatory Academy is available at the front office and can be accessed through the following web address:
http://doewebprd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclb spar/year1516/nclb1516.cfm?dist_schl=5_6541

Please contact our school office if you would like a paper copy of this report or a copy translated into Spanish or Creole.

MyON



In a move towards further boosting the literacy skills of its students, Odyssey Preparatory Academy (OPA) is continuing the use of MyOn. The addition will give students a customized reading experience with infinite access to thousands of digital books from award-winning Capstone imprints as well as our many partner publishers. These books can be accessed from home by your student and can be used for the daily 20-30 minutes reading homework. Each student has their own username and password. The program can be accessed at <https://www.myon.com/>. If they cannot remember it you can get your student’s password by emailing Mr. Galloway at gallowayp@odysseyprepacademy.com.



Clubs

Students at Odyssey Prep will be starting afterschool clubs in the month of November. Our goal will be to ensure your student has a great afterschool experience in everything from iReady, to Minecraft, to tutoring, to Lego Club. Look for information coming home with your student soon!